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Official Newsletter of the Miniwanca Younger Boys and Pre-Senior Camps

AMERICAN YOUTH FOUNDATION, 3930 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis 8, Mo.

NOVEMBER 1952

DARERS, DOERS, PRE-SENIORS

Well, here we are nearly four months after the close of Y.B. Camp, and just a few weeks away from Christmas. How time does fly! Next thing we know we will all be packing our duffle bags and lockers, in anticipation of another big five weeks of top-flight camping at Stony Lake. June will be here almost before we know it.

Many of us felt that last summer's YB Camp was one of our best in many years. From the standpoint of numbers the camp had a total attendance of 209, of whom 172 were campers, 4 camper-leaders, and 33 leaders. There were 97 first year campers and 75 old campers. In the Darer Group there were 59 campers; 67 in the Doers, and 46 in the Pre-Senior Unit.

Twenty Six States were represented. The largest state group was Missouri with 60 campers; then came Illinois with 37, closely followed by Ohio with 35; Indiana was next in line with 18 and then came Michigan with 13. After these larger groups, the state line-up ran from one to five campers. Twenty-six states is a very representative camp enrolment. Perhaps the most interesting fact in the enrolment line-up of states is the way in which the entire length and breadth of the United States checked in at Y.B. Oregon, California, Texas, Florida, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, and twenty other states in between - a true cross-section of this great nation of ours!

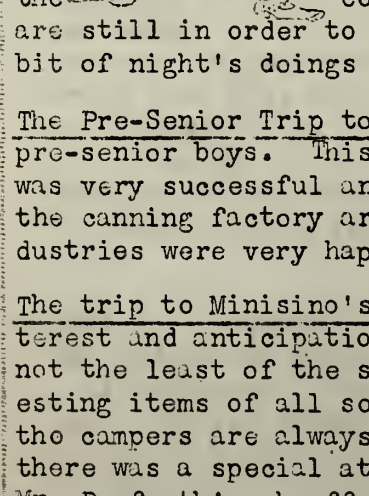
And that in itself is a lot of fun - living, playing, working, competing, and fellowshipping with fellows from all parts of the country. It is a truly broadening experience. And it is the kind of experience that increases a boy's confidence in himself, for he gets a gauge on boys from other parts of the country and then is delightfully surprised to find that he is no different from other boys, and that he can hold his own with the best of them.

Perhaps we all ought to make a drive on getting more states represented in the 1953 YB Camp. If you have friends or relatives in another state, why not write them a

 note about YB and then send names and addresses to us so that we can follow up and send them full information. So that you may know what states to go after, here is the complete line-up of states in last summer's camp: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin. Let's try for thirty states at least for next summer.

The weather last summer was super-plus. It was very much like the Miniwanca weather we had a few years back, year after year. Let's hope we have another good season of camping weather next summer. Fact is, the weather in September at Stony Lake was just as nice as it was back in the summer. And here is one for you YB campers and leaders -- the Director of the AYF went swimming in Lake Michigan on the 24th day of September, and it sure was nice - a bit nippy but not too cold.

That National By-partisan Political Convention was one of the outstanding special events of the 1952 YB camp. Parents of campers would have been thrilled to see how well the whole event was organized and carried through, to the finish. Nothing was overlooked. If the chairmen of the Democratic and Republican parties could have seen it, I have a feeling they would have got hold of some good pointers for their own big shows in Chicago. The setting of the convention was exceptionally good-with the high platform on the tennis courts, the good lighting system, the fancy decorations, the seating assignment for delegations, the portable microphone which was whisked about with lightening speed, on a garbage can dolly, from one state delegation to another; the nominating speeches, the seconding speeches, and then the big torch lighted parades, after each nominating speech, and finally the voting - what a night and what a show. Guests who happened to be in camp that night could hardly believe their own eyes and ears. Here indeed was a real school of democratic action.



That night, after staying in the convention until after the voting had begun, the Director went to Maplecrest Cottage and turned in, around ten thirty. Imagine his surprise when, after a spell of quiet, there came booming across the dunes, over the loud speaker, the voice of the Permanent Chairman of the Convention, and the whack, whack, whack of the gavel -- "Gentlemen, take your seats, take your seats; Sergeant at Arms clear the floor; you must take your seats; this Convention cannot go on until order has been restored!" Whack, whack, whack and again and again. You can imagine the good quiet laugh I had way over there a half mile away, lying in bed and listening to the closing moments of the convention. Yes, it was a beautiful job, and congratulations are still in order to those who so carefully planned and executed this constructive bit of night's doings programming in YB.

The Pre-Senior Trip to the Canning Factory, etc. was a pleasant diversion for the pre-senior boys. This was in the nature of an experiment,and from all reports, it was very successful and everyone thoroughly enjoyed himself. The basket factory and the canning factory are two very fine plants in Shelby, and the owners of these industries were very happy to have the Camp Miniwanca boys pay them a visit.

The trip to Minisino's Cabin and Workshop is always looked forward to with much interest and anticipation. The extra large ice cream cone which goes with the trip is not the least of the special attractions. Minisino has a great collection of interesting items of all sorts which he has collected on his many world-wide trips, and the campers are always eager to hear him tell the story of each souvenir. This year there was a special attraction in the person of a ring-tail raccoon which Clarence, Mr. Danforth's chauffeur, had trapped in a "walk-in" cage of his own design. And how that coon did like ice cream. That very night "Mr. Coon", as Clarence put it, "outsmarted me" by poking his head through the wire, enlarging the hole and then off to the woods again. Better luck and better cage next time, Clarence.

And the Merry Half-a-Christmas - Now there was an idea for you. And not a bad one at that. You see, as it was explained at the time, Christmas is really a big event in our lives, and of course Miniwanca YB campers would give most anything if the whole YB camp could really get together at Christmas-time. But that, of course, is impossible, SO the program committee did the next best thing. They planned a "Half-Christmas" program. After they sang some of the more or less modern Christmas songs - "Up on the Housetops", "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer", "Jingle Bells", "White Christmas", and "Frosty the Snowman", old Santa Claus himself appeared, loaded with gifts for all campers. Ruthie Steiner and her crew made possible some good old-fashioned popcorn balls for the whole camp. Wild excitement. By now the campers had well caught the spirit and purpose of the unique program, on a July summer night,and when the time came to sing the real Christmas Carols, the spirit of Christmas time had really captured the hearts of the campers. Needless to say, when Christmas comes every YB camper and leader will let his thoughts go winging back to Stony Lake, to the scene in the Assembly Building overlooking the lake. Snow will be on the ground; the lake will be frozen over; only the chipmunks and squirrels, the raccoons and deer will be on hand, and there will be a great quiet over the camp. And yet, it will not be difficult to hear, if we listen carefully, the singing of Christmas carols by a group of mighty fine Miniwanca fellows on a warm night in July, 1952.

Now take the Fourth of July Celebration. The day was perfect, quite in contrast to the year before. The program on the waterfront was chock full of fun and excitement. The big peerade formed up in the camp and marched down the cement road to the county road and then down to the docks, where things began to happen fast and furious. The program started with the sweat shirt relay by the Pre-Seniors. Then came the Rabbit Relay by the Darers. All units had a chance to show what their representatives could do on the greased pole in the swatting contest. The clown act always is funny and this year the monkey doodle business of the clowns was really good. The musical kick-boards, boat-filling, tug-of-war, and watermellon grab events came in rapid succession, and the underwater swim by the Darers, Life Savers in an undress demonstration, and the Match relay by the Doers were strong finishing events for the morning program. Of course the big regatta got under way to close the waterfront program, and this was the forerunner of many other fine sailing events that were held in YB this past summer. The red hot camper-leader games in the afternoon and the beach supper and fireworks at the close of the day, on the shore of Lake Michigan, marked the end of a perfect day of celebration of Independence Day. It's a really great day in camp.

One could go on almost forever raving about the special events and the day-by-day good times that we all had last summer in YB - County Fair Day, Miniwanca Square Gardens, Beach Parties, Low Council, Friendly Council, The Miniwanca Theatre plays, fun on Old Baldy, Treasure Hunts, Flashlight Relay, Boat Trips, Athletic and Aquatic Meets, the hot ball games, craft house fun, photography and archery classes, badminton, Vespers, Church on Chapel Dune, and innumerable other activities. These events are now all a part of us, and in the days and years ahead we will constantly be thinking of them, and of the many fine lessons we learned while we camped together this past summer at Miniwanca. Every camper and leader will be a better person this next year, and in the years ahead because of the many happy and exciting experiences.

The new Shower Enclosure is a very great improvement over the old arrangement. The boys in the Service Groups, with the help of Don Pierce, did a very fine job in getting this piece of equipment in working order well before the close of camp. It would have functioned sooner if we had been able to obtain delivery of the big hot water heater. We can now be assured of hot showers from the very opening day of 1953 YB. The new location of the showers makes this convenience available to all groups, and at a point not far removed from all tent areas.

In the Camp Kitchen a battery of brand new Magic Chef gas ranges were installed this past summer. Included in the line-up of ranges is a big "fry top" and when it comes

to making hot cakes and French toast, well, this big fry-top range is just out of this world. And all the stoves are very fast and very hot. And they are clean, too. The soot of the oil-burning ranges is a thing of the past, as also is the necessity of keeping the stoves burning all night, in fact all summer long, as was the case with the oil ranges. All this makes for greater efficiency in our commissary department, and it helps a very great deal, too, when it comes to handling the work in the camp kitchen.

There is also installed in YB Kitchen the large automatic dishwasher which was brought over to YB from the main kitchen. This piece of equipment has also added greatly to the effectiveness of our commissary department. For those parents who have not yet been to Camp Miniwanca, it is also of interest to know that in the Younger Boys kitchen there are four large walk-in refrigerators, which makes possible the segregation of food stuffs according to kind - meats, dairy products, fruits and vegetables, and the miscellaneous items, desserts, etc. We are justly proud of our well equipped kitchens and Eating Lodges at Camp Miniwanca. The big deep freeze in the main camp also serves the YB unit, and the camp is thus assured of complete and effective protection of all food stuffs.

Health Center this past summer was in charge of most excellent Nurse Edith (Bunny) Wittler. It was Edith's first summer at Miniwanca and she fitted in like a glove. Everyone was justly enthusiastic over our YB nurse. Nothing was too much for Nurse Edith to do for YB campers and leaders, and we are all most grateful for the gracious Christian spirit that she spread abroad at all times, throughout the Health Center and in all her contacts in the camp. And good news for all of us; Nurse Edith says she will surely be back with us again next summer. That is grand good news.

Yes, Y. B. was good last year. Under Director Joe Whitwam's excellent leadership, the Y. B. leader staff gave their very best to help every boy get the greatest good from his camping experience. Few campers fully realize the extent of the organization and machinery that is back of the entire Y. B. program. First we have the three Units - Darer, Doer and Pre-Senior Directors and their associates. Next comes the extensive departmental organization - The Athletic Department, which is broken down into sub-divisions: Archery, Boxing, Badminton, Football Fundamentals, Tennis, Weight Lifting, Wrestling, and various other major activities.

Then we have the Aquatic Department which also has its sub-divisions: Non-swimmers and Beginners, Intermediates, Swimmers, Advanced Swimmers, Senior Life Saving, Life Guards, Buddy Board, Instructional Swim and Recreational Swimming. Then comes the Boatcraft Department: Sailing, Canoeing, Rowing, Regattas, etc. The Business Department handles the Camp Bank, Exchange Center, Lost and Found, Post Office and Stamp sales. The Camp Store and Record Keeper also come under the Business Department.

Christian Ideals Department is responsible for the six daily Christian Ideals Classes, Morning Table Devotions, Vesper Services, Sunday School and Church Services. Other departments of camp organization are: Camp Service, Counselling, Crafts, Equipment Room, Fine Arts, Dramatics, Choir, Orchestra, Chess and Checkers, Newspaper, Art Instruction, Photography, Fire Chiefs, Fishing, Flag Raising, Health, Inspectors, Showers, Library, Nature Study, Campcraft and Outdoorscraft, Debating, Riflery, Scouting, and Special Events and Interests.

It is Indeed a Formidable Organization, especially when it is coupled up with the general A.Y.F. overhead organization, Commissary, Grounds and Buildings, Trucking, Transportation, Maintenance, Business, Bookkeeping, General Office, Finance, Purchasing, and a dozen more units of organization, supervision and direction.

Well we must be on our way, and save room for the Camp Roster which will enable you to write and mail your Christmas cards early this year, and write to some of the many friends you made at camp this summer.

May you have a good Thanksgiving, and may we return our grateful thanks to our parents who make possible so many wonderful opportunities for our growth and development, and at the same time give grateful thanks to our Father God for the many, many blessings that He bestows upon us every day of our lives. Miniwanca taught us much about God. Don't lose or fail to use that which you gained this past summer in Y. B. camp, in the way of Four-fold development.

And don't forget to work on those goals you worked out for yourself, when you had your personal interview chat with those fine leaders in the Counselling Department. We will be sending these goals along to you one of these days. In the meantime, think back over those days we spent together last summer at Miniwanca and plan to live each day at your very best. We may slip once in a while, but don't forget that the goal is still there. Go to it YB camper, and be proud of your ability to live each day, well above the average. That's leadership.

And finally, better get that application in NOW for next summer. You would be surprised to know how many applications have been rolling in each day, even before we could get out the Fall notices to old campers. Send us names and addresses of boys you would like to recommend for the 1953 Camp, and we will contact them immediately. Good luck and good living every day, according to the YB Four-fold Way. And now, The Roster.

Miniwancally yours,

Wadjepi

P. G. Orwig, Director

YOUNGER BOYS CAMP ROSTER 1952

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Wulff, George, 12 Princeton Place, St. Louis 5, Missouri
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